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By GERRY VAN DER HEUVEL

Apparently nobody trusts nobody in the government these days. A bit of incidental intelligences which emerged this week is the fact that Uncle Sam owns and vigorously uses 525 lie detectors. And this doesn't even count the CIA, which reportedly, has scads of the devices.

19 Agencies Confess Use of Lie Detectors

In response to a query from the House Government Information subcommittee, 19 agencies confessed (without lie detectors, presumably) that they owned and used polygraphs. Not only that —they hire 656 honest people to run them and pay them $4.4 million for their trouble.

Subcommittee Chairman John E. Moss (D-Calif.) seems to be mostly concerned with how the use of the sneak detectors is being safeguarded. But when Johnson finds out what's going on, he may wield an economy ax. After all, he could save a lot of money by just hiring honest government employes in the first place.

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